

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A touch probing device for inspecting an object, comprising:
 - a fixed part,
 - a first movable part coupled to and movable with respect to the fixed part, in measuring means for measuring the ~~motion between~~ displacement of the fixed part and relative to the first movable parts part and for supplying a measuring signal indicative of the relative displacement, and
 - contact means coupled to the movable part for contacting a surface of an object,wherein
the contact means is coupled to the first movable part via a shock absorber.
2. (Currently Amended) The touch probing device of claim 1, further comprising weight compensating means for compensating the weight of the first movable part, by use of a magnetic field.
3. (Currently Amended) The touch probing device of claim 2, wherein the weight compensating means comprises a series of permanent magnets arranged to exert a substantially constant magnetic force onto the first movable part.
4. (Original) The touch probing device of claim 2, comprising a further weight compensating means.
5. (Original) The touch probing device of claim 4, wherein the further weight compensating means comprises tension springs or counterweights.
6. (Currently Amended) The touch probing device of claim 1, wherein the shock absorber includes a second movable part and the first movable part has a higher mass and a lower stiffness than the second movable part of the shock absorber and the contact means.
7. (Currently Amended) The touch probing device of claim 6, wherein the first movable part has a mass at least two orders higher than the total ~~mm~~ mass of the second movable part of the shock absorber and the contact means.

8. (Currently Amended) The touch probing device of claim 7, wherein the first movable part has a stiffness about two orders lower than the total stiffness of the second movable part of the shock absorber and the contact means.

9. (Currently Amended) The touch probing device of claim 1, comprising a parallel kinematics motion transmission assembly coupling the fixed part with the first movable part, which assembly is designed to offer three translation degrees of freedom.

10. (Original) The touch probing device of claim 9, wherein the motion transmission assembly exhibits uniform stiffness in all spatial directions.

11. (Currently Amended) The touch probing device of claim 9, wherein the motion transmission assembly comprises three separate transmission units coupling the fixed part with the first movable part, which units are each designed to offer three translational degrees of freedom and to prevent one rotational degree of freedom.

12. (Original) The touch probing device of claim 11, wherein each transmission unit comprises a measuring means.

13. (Currently Amended) The touch probing device of claim 5 11, wherein each transmission unit comprises flexural links.

14. (Original) The touch probing device of claim 11, wherein each transmission unit comprises weight compensating means.

15. (Original) The touch probing device of claim 1, wherein the shock absorber exhibits uniform stiffness in all spatial directions.

16. (Original) The touch probing device of claim 1, wherein the shock absorber comprises at least one leaf-spring element which prevents one rotational degree of freedom and two translational degrees of freedom.

17. (Original) A coordinate measuring machine comprising the touch probing device of claim 1.

18. (Currently Amended) A touch probing device for inspecting an object, comprising

a fixed part,

a movable part coupled to the fixed part in such that it allows for a motion of the movable part with respect to the fixed part,

measuring means for measuring the ~~motion between~~ displacement of the fixed and relative to the movable parts part and for supplying a measuring signal indicative of the relative displacement,

contact means coupled to the movable part for contacting a surface of the object, and

weight compensating means for compensating the weight of the movable part,

wherein

the weight compensating means uses a magnetic field for compensating the weight of the movable part, wherein the magnetic field generates a quasi-linear compensating force with an excursion range of the movable part relative to the fixed part .

19. (Original) The touch probing device claim 18, comprising a parallel kinematics motion transmission assembly coupling the fixed part with the movable part, which assembly is designed to offer three translation degrees of freedom.

20. (Original) The touch probing device of claim 19, wherein the motion transmission assembly comprises three separate transmission units coupling the fixed part with the movable part, which units are each designed to offer three translational degrees of freedom and to prevent one rotational degree of freedom.

21. (Original) The touch probing device of claim 20, wherein each transmission unit comprises a measuring means.

22. (Original) The touch probing device of claim 20, wherein each transmission unit comprises flexural links.

23. (Original) The touch probing device of claim 20, wherein each transmission unit comprises weight compensating means.

24. (Original) The touch probing device claim 19, wherein the motion transmission assembly exhibits uniform stiffness in all spatial directions.

25. (Original) The touch probing device of claim 18, wherein the weight compensating means comprises a series of permanent magnets arranged to exert a substantially constant magnetic force onto the movable part.

26. (Original) The touch probing device of claim 18, comprising a further weight compensating means.

27. (Original) The touch probing device of claim 26, wherein the further weight compensating means comprises tension springs or counterweights.

28. (Original) A coordinate measuring machine comprising the touch probing device of claim 18.